

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04777 180641Z

21

ACTION INR-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 ACDA-19 SCCT-02 SAB-01

SAM-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 /162 W

----- 107697

R 180540Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8286

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 4777

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MARR, SA

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST MILITARY POSTURES

REF : STATE 177005

1. JIDDA IS NOT THE BEST VANTAGE POINT FROM WHICH TO
COMMENT ON ARAB-ISRAELI WAR RISK BUT FOLLOWING POINTS
ARE OFFERED TO SUPPLEMENT DRAFT PAPER REFTEL.

2. SAG HAS BEEN PERSUADED TO GIVE NEGOTIATIONS A CHANCE
AND VERY MUCH WANTS THEM TO SUCCEED. IF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
WERE TO COLLAPSE AND IT APPEARED AS IF EGYPT AND SYRIA

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WERE ON BRINK OF GOING TO WAR, SAUDI REACTION WOULD

FIRST URGE A DELAY TO SATISFY THEMSELVES (PARTICULARLY THROUGH US) THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT BE REVIVED. SHOULD WAR ACTUALLY BREAK OUT, SAG WOULD GIVE STRONG SUPPORT TO THE WARRING ARAB STATES.

3. THIS SUPPORT WOULD CERTAINLY INCLUDE (A) VAST FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE WARRING ARAB STATES (WHICH COULD INCLUDE PUNITIVE FINANCIAL ACTION AGAINST STATES CONSIDERED ANTI-ARAB) AND--DEPENDING ON US ACTIONS--(B) RESORT TO THE OIL WEAPON IN FORM OF PRODUCTION CUTBACKS OR EMBARGOES.

4. THE SAG WOULD ALSO COME UNDER PRESSURE TO DESPATCH LOGISTICS SUPPORT OR EVEN COMBAT UNITS TO SYRIAN OR EGYPTIAN FRONTS.

5. THE RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES COULD WIPE OUT OUR RECENT GAINS IN SAUDI ARABIA. IT WOULD CERTAINLY ALSO DIMINISH ARAB CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE OFFERS/ASSURANCES OF OUR GOOD OFFICES.

HORAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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